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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4526
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000678

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/19/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [BA](#) [IZ](#) [REGION](#)
SUBJECT: MFA DENIES REPORT OF POSSIBLE MUQTADA AL SADR VISIT

REF: A. MANAMA 0399

[1](#)B. STATE 29931

[1](#)C. STATE 27111

Classified by DCM Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) MFA Assistant Under Secretary for Coordination and Follow Up Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa told Pol/Econ Chief April 19 that he "doubted the veracity" of a report in the same day's Al Wasat newspaper, a local Arabic daily, citing informed sources claiming that Muqtada Al Sadr would visit Bahrain soon. He said the GOB had no knowledge of and had received no request for a visit by Al Sadr. Shaikh Abdul Aziz said the report was likely planted in Al Wasat by Al Sadr supporters in Bahrain who want him to be welcomed by the GOB for a visit. He commented that it was not logical for an "extremist of his type" to want to visit Bahrain. The GOB does not want to encourage Al Sadr or his ideology within the Iraqi political scene.

MONROE